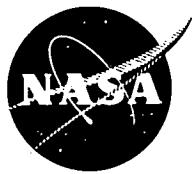


NASA TECH BRIEF*Lewis Research Center*

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**PRODUCTION OF SMALL DIAMETER
HIGH-TEMPERATURE-STRENGTH REFRACTORY METAL WIRES**

Small refractory metal alloy wires are of interest for manufacturing fiber-reinforced superalloy (nickel base and cobalt base alloy) composite materials. Such fiber-reinforced composites are useful because they exhibit high strength at high temperatures. Superalloy composites reinforced with refractory metal wires have demonstrated superior properties compared to conventional (un-reinforced) superalloys at such high temperatures. These composite materials derive their high temperature strength from the superior properties of the reinforcing wires; thus, refractory metal alloy wires in long continuous lengths are needed. However, it is difficult to fabricate fine wires from these refractory alloys because of their high strength.

Fabrication procedures have recently been developed for producing small diameter wire from three refractory metal alloys: a tantalum base alloy (0.027C-1Hf-1Re-8W-balance Ta), a columbium base alloy (0.06C-2Hf-28W-balance Cb) and a tungsten base alloy (0.03C-0.35Hf-balance W). With these procedures, continuous lengths of wires varying in diameter from 0.25 to 0.51 mm (0.01 to 0.02 inch) have been produced. The techniques employed in the production of wire are common to the art; however, special thermomechanical techniques (schedules) were applied to the first successful production of fine wire from these alloys.

The tensile and stress-rupture properties of these wires (as compared to some conventional materials) are as follows:

Refractory Wire

Tungsten base alloy
(compared to conventional tungsten lamp filament)

Tantalum base alloy

Columbium base alloy

Tensile Strength at 1366 K (2000°F)

1430 MN/m² (207,000 psi)
(862 MN/m² (125,000 psi))

779 MN/m² (113,000 psi)

530 MN/m² (77,000 psi)

Refractory Wire

Tungsten base alloy
(compared to conventional tungsten lamp filament)

Tantalum base alloy

Columbium base alloy

100 Hour Stress-Rupture Strength at 1366 K (2000°F)

1110 MN/m² (161,000 psi)
(379 MN/m² (55,000 psi))

590 MN/m² (85,000 psi)

350 MN/m² (50,000 psi)

(continued overleaf)

The high strengths of these wires indicate their potential for contributing increased strength to metallic composites. For example, it may be possible to produce tungsten alloy wire reinforced superalloys with over three times the tensile strength and up to ten times the 1000-hour rupture-strength at 1366 K (2000°F) of the strongest unreinforced superalloys. Such a composite could be used in hollow turbine blades for operating temperatures in the 1366 to 1477 K (2000 to 2200°F) range.

NOTES:

1. The tantalum base and columbium base alloys were developed under government contracts by Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratories and are designated as ASTAR-811C and B-88, respectively. The tungsten base alloy designated W-Hf-C was developed by NASA.
2. The following documentation may be obtained from:
National Technical Information Service
Springfield, Virginia 22151
(microfiche \$0.95)

Reference: NASA TN-D-6881 (N72-29561), High-Temperature Strength of Refractory-Metal Wires and Consideration for Composite Application; Single document price \$3.00

Reference: NASA CR-120925 (N72-26399), Development of Wire Drawing Processes for Refractory Metal Fibers; Single document price \$5.50

3. A brief supplementary report entitled "Development of Wire Drawing Processes for Refractory Metal Fibers" can be obtained from:

Technology Utilization Officer
Lewis Research Center
21000 Brookpark Road
Cleveland, Ohio 44135
Reference: B73-10003

PATENT STATUS:

NASA has decided not to apply for a patent.

Source: D.W. Petrasek and R.A. Signorelli
Lewis Research Center, and
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Westinghouse Electric Corp.
under contract to
Lewis Research Center
(LEW-11802)